



NIRB File No.: 10EA018
NWB File No.: 2BB-MEL0914
KIA File No.: KVCL102J168

May 17, 2012

Eric Lamontange
Project Manager
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited
2904-93 Rue Arsenault
Quebec, QC J9P 0E9

Via email: eric.m.lamontagne@agnico-eagle.com

Re: Application Acknowledgement and Comment Request for AEM's Amendment with the NWB for the "Meliadine Bulk Sample" project

Dear Eric Lamontange:

On May 4, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) for an amendment to Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM or the Proponent) Type B water licence for the "Meliadine Bulk Sample" project (NWB File No. 2BB-MEL0914).

ORIGINAL PROJECT:

Please be advised that the original Meliadine Bulk Sample project proposal (NIRB File No. 10EA018) including applications for a Land Use Licence from the Kivalliq Inuit Association and a Type B water licence from the NWB were received by the NIRB from Comaplex Minerals Corp. (Comaplex; now AEM) on February 25, 2010. On March 9, 2010 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) for this file and commenced screening the proposal in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

On May 5, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) Screening Decision to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC; now Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development or AANDC), indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The NIRB's original screening considered the bulk sampling activities as specifically listed in Appendix A to this letter. As these activities have been previously screened by the NIRB, they are **not** being considered by the NIRB as a part of its current assessment.

CURRENT AMENDMENT:

AEM's current amendment to the NWB Water Licence for the Meliadine Bulk Sample project (NWB File No. 2BB-MEL0914) includes the following *additional* project activities:

- The construction, operation and reclamation of a landfill for use during the Bulk Sample program.

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2010/10EA018-Comaplex%20Bulk%20Sample/01-APPLICATION/> including:

- *NWB Amendment Application,*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut, and*
- *AEM's Landfill Design and Management Plan.*

AEM's current application for an amendment to its NWB Water Licence (No. 2BB-MEL0914) for the Meliadine Bulk Sample project is considered to be a separate and distinct project from the larger Meliadine Gold Mine project that was previously screened and is currently undergoing Review by the NIRB pursuant to Part 5, Article 12 of the NLCA (NIRB File No. 11MN034).

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

The NIRB is of the opinion that the request for the amendment is not likely to *significantly* change the general scope of the original project activities. Therefore the NIRB is *proposing* to re-issue the same terms and conditions as those in the attached May 5, 2010 Screening Decision, along with any new terms and conditions the NIRB considers appropriate. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during its assessment of the amendment application.

Be advised that the NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 7, 2012**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding the *additional* activities listed as part of the **current amendment** application, and in doing so, to give consideration to the following:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;

- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Gillard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kelli" and last name "Gillard" clearly legible.

Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P.Ag.
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
John Witteman, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

Attached (1): Appendix A: Previously Screened Project Activities

Enclosures (3): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)
NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No. 10EA018 (May 5, 2010)

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY SCREENED PROJECT ACTIVITIES

As previously assessed by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Meliadine Bulk Sample project was located in the Kivalliq region approximately 30 kilometres (km) northwest of Rankin Inlet and within the larger footprint of the Meliadine Gold Project area. During 2007 and 2008, Comaplex conducted a bulk sampling program (NIRB File No. 07EN044) which included the construction of a portal site, waste and ore rock pads, an all-weather road, a bulk sampling tower and ancillary infrastructure.

In 2010 the NIRB received an application for extension and expansion to previously permitted activities (NIRB File No. 07EN044). The NIRB determined that the proposed works constituted a significant change from the scope of the original proposal and as such, determined that the extension and expansion application required screening pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the NLCA. The new activities were screened as NIRB File No. 10EA018 and were allowed to proceed pursuant to the enclosed May 5, 2010 Screening Decision to the Minister of INAC. Activities included within the scope of the NIRB's assessment included expansion of the existing portal, ramp and existing infrastructure that would allow Comaplex to conduct bulk sampling at deeper depths while completing the feasibility study for the Meliadine Gold Mine. The proposed bulk sampling program was slated to begin in 2010 and was expected to be completed by 2013.

The project activities previously assessed by the NIRB included:

- Expansion of the existing waste and ore rock pads (increase by 3.2 hectares);
- Widening of the existing road from the portal to the pad sites;
- Construction of a multi-plate cover over the portal;
- Re-activation of the existing portal and ramp;
- Increase the amount of equipment (mining and transportation) and materials on site by 850 tonnes;
- Increase the number of structures and generators at portal site for equipment storage;
- The repair and upgrade of existing infrastructure at portal site;
- Construction of 1,920 metres (m) of decline (ramp) at 5.2 m wide by 5.2 m high from the end of the existing decline down to 400 m below the surface;
- Construction of a 490 m of 4.5 m by 4.5 m decline, branching off the main ramp;
- Construction of a 245 m long, vertical 3.0 m diameter ventilation rise with the construction of a fan house and exhaust fan at the surface;
- Conduct 45,000 m of underground diamond drilling;
- Extraction of 22,000 tonne bulk samples;
- Increase Type 4 magazines on site (bring in 5 more magazines);
- Increase the amount of explosives stored on site;
- Transportation of explosives to site via helicopter;
- Expansion of on-site fuel storage capacity to 2 million litres;
- Increase on-site storage of calcium chloride for the purposes of drilling;
- Construction of an ice air strip to increase plane access during winter months; and
- Increase the existing camp capacity from 60 to 80 personnel for year round accommodation.

In addition, some components of the Meliadine Bulk Sample project have been previously screened by the NIRB outside of the 07EN044 and 10EA018 files. These associated components have been allowed to proceed under various other file numbers (including 03EN077, 05EN006, 05EN101, 07AN063, 08EN005, and 08EN043). These other screenings have included such components as: winter road, wash car, waste water treatment plant, new wetlands area, bulk sampling tower, existing agreements with the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet and fuel transfer stations.